

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing soybean protein, which ~~is~~ comprises heating a solution containing the soybean protein under acidic conditions, and then fractionating it ~~into a soluble fraction and an insoluble fraction~~ at an ionic strength of 0.02 or more and pH of 4.5 or higher but lower than 5.6 to separate into a soluble fraction and an insoluble fraction.

2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the solution containing the soybean protein is an aqueous slurry of defatted soybeans, defatted soybean milk obtained from the slurry, a slurry of acid-precipitated soybean protein, or a solution of soybean protein isolate.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the solution containing the soybean protein is heated under acidic conditions ~~are those at~~ of pH 3.8 to 6.8.

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ~~heating is performed at~~ solution containing the soybean protein is heated at a temperature of 30 to 75°C.

5. (Original) The process according to claim 1, which further comprises fractionating 7S globulin protein from the soluble fraction obtained by the fractionation in claim 1, wherein a ratio of 7S globulin/(11S globulin + 7S globulin) of said 7S globulin protein is 0.5 or more, and a content of a polar lipid extracted by a mixed solvent of chloroform and methanol (chloroform : methanol = 2 : 1) in the solid content of said 7S globulin protein is 1% by weight or less.

6. (Original) 7S Globulin protein obtained by the process according to claim 5, whose phytic acid content is 1.2% by weight or less in the solid content.

7. (Original) The process according to claim 1, which further comprises fractionating 11S globulin protein from the insoluble fraction obtained by the fractionation in claim 1, wherein a ratio of 11S globulin/(11S globulin + 7S globulin) of said 11S globulin protein is 0.7 or more,

and a content of a polar lipid extracted with a mixed solvent of chloroform and methanol (chloroform : methanol = 2 : 1) in the solid content of said 11S globulin protein is 2% by weight or less.

8. (Original) 11S Globulin protein obtained by the process according to claim 7, whose phytic acid content is 1.2% by weight or less in the solid content.